



# **Collective Worship Policy**

## **Introduction**

At Llanharan Primary School, we hold a daily act of Collective Worship which is mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief but which is non-denominational. It is seen as an important aspect of school life which can contribute to spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children and supporting their development as Ethical, Informed Citizens (Four Core Purposes).

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The timing and organisation of daily Collective Worship can be flexible, including the whole school together in one place or as classes or as groups of children meeting.

## **Collective Worship Legislation**

The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Welsh Office Circular 10/94 set out the legal requirements for Collective Worship in schools in Wales. These requirements apply to pupils in maintained schools other than special schools. The requirements do not apply to colleges of further education or to nursery schools or nursery classes in infant or primary schools.

Llanharan Primary School also notes the Local Authority guidelines on collective worship in maintained schools.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Llanharan Primary School. It is a time when the school community can share common aims and Core Values, celebrate achievement and special times, explore together the world in which we live, develop a community spirit and reinforce positive attitudes.

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as an Ethical, Informed Citizen by providing opportunities to:

- foster a sense of fellowship by bringing children together;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- develop their own spirituality;
- To encourage in children a reflective approach to life;
- To heighten children's awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life;
- To introduce children to various aspects of religious worship;
- To celebrate achievements and special occasions of individuals, school and wider community

## **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is an essential element of all aspects of the School's curriculum. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

## **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Acts of Collective Worship take place on a daily basis and may involve the whole school, key stages, year groups or classes. The whole school meets regularly for an assembly in the school hall and these assemblies include an act of Collective Worship. A range of school staff will be involved in leading acts of worship through the school year. In the main these will be members of the School's Leadership Team, but not exclusively. In addition, visitors can also be invited to lead.

We welcome our local church group on a fortnightly bases who share stories from the Bible with our children. This is done in an interactive way, with pupils chosen to act and play a full role in the act of collective worship.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Collective Worship times are seen as rich opportunities for developing pupils' speaking and listening skills.

It is recognised that assemblies and acts of Collective Worship are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering the difference between the two should be clear. Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

## **Withdrawal**

Collective Worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all pupils attending the school. Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

## **Equalities Statement for Collective Worship Policy**

At Llanharan Primary School, we recognise and celebrate the fact that British and Welsh society is made up of people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences and as such, seek to reflect this in all of our school policies. In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 our policies and learning and teaching strategies fulfil the duties to promote equality for people with 'protected characteristics', and embed fairness and equality at the heart of our school community and in all aspects of our school plans and policies.

### **Through our Collective Worship Policy, we seek to:**

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimization;
2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

At our School, we aim to provide a happy, caring environment in which all children can feel confident and able to learn. We seek to foster an environment of mutual respect and support between all staff, pupils, parents and carers and the wider community and this is reflected in the content of each policy.

The School values and encourages involvement of people from all sections of the local community and through this involvement aims to provide positive images, role models and opportunities that challenge stereotyped thinking.

Policy approved: Mrs B. Price (Headteacher)

Policy approved: Mrs S James (Chairperson of Governing Body)